

Migration: A Critical Issue for Child Welfare

2006 Transnational Research and Policy Forum Report



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Migration: A Critical Issue For Child Welfare

2006 Transnational Research and Policy Forum Report

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Introduction

Immigrant children and families represent one of the largest and fastest-growing populations in the United States. During the 1990s, more than 15 million immigrants entered the United States, compared to 10 million during the 1980s and 7 million during the 1970s (Capps & Fortuny, 2006). As of 2005, immigrants comprised 12% of the total U.S. population, while children of immigrants represented one-fifth of all children under 18 (Capps & Fortuny, 2006). Immigrants from Latin American countries accounted for over one-half of the total immigrant population in the United States, with Mexico accounting for 31% of all immigrant families in the United States (Capps & Passell, 2004). Additionally, the number of undocumented residents in the United States continues to rise each year, with data indicating 11 million undocumented residents as of March 2005, of which approximately 1.7 million are children under 18 (Passell, 2005).

Currently, the exact number of immigrant children involved in the child welfare system in the United States is unknown, as this information is not collected uniformly at the local, state, or national levels. Nonetheless, due to the complexity of these cases, immigrant children and families involved in the child welfare system have unique needs that must be addressed in order to achieve positive outcomes of safety, permanency, and well-being. Upon migrating to the United States, immigrant children and families face a multitude of challenges resulting from the process of immigration and acculturation. Differences in culture, language, and traditions serve as significant sources of stress for immigrant children and families and create barriers to their ability to access needed resources. Additionally, existing laws and policies impede the ability of child welfare agencies to provide effective services to immigrant children and families involved in the child welfare system. Given the complexity of these issues, along with the rapid growth of the immigrant population, child welfare agencies must examine their policies and practices to ensure that they are responding to the specific needs of immigrant children and families.

In 2005, the American Humane Association and the School of Social Work at Loyola University Chicago began a dialogue about the growth of the immigrant population and the challenges this poses for child welfare service providers. These discussions provided the impetus for a wider degree of engagement and discourse with professionals from many disciplines, including those in higher education, child welfare, international immigration, and legal practice. Their dialogue resulted in the creation of a roundtable specifically focused on the issue of migration and its intersection with child welfare.

In July 2006, 70 participants from 10 states and Mexico convened for the first American Humane/ Loyola University Chicago roundtable on migration to stimulate new research and program innovation, inform and shape policy development, and focus greater attention on improving child welfare systems practices and professional training. Entitled *Migration, A Critical Issue for Child Welfare: A Transnational Research and Policy Forum*, the roundtable was held July 24-26 at the Loyola University Chicago on the Lakeshore campus. Specific areas of focus included:

- Causes, patterns, and projections of migratory flows in North and South America;
- Migration and its effects on the family;
- The effects of migration on child well-being, including child maltreatment, mental and physical health, and education;
- Current and proposed immigration laws and policies as they relate to child welfare practice; and
- The impact of immigration laws and policies on child welfare systems.

Together, American Humane and Loyola University Chicago brought rich histories with decades of child welfare experience and research in migration to this effort. By convening experts in the field, this roundtable also built on a broad range of previous efforts.



Participating organizations included:

- The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) which, together with the Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS), has specialized in providing foster care and other services to refugee and immigrant children for over 25 years. In 2000, these organizations created the Bridging Refugee Youth and Children's Services (BRYCS) initiative, which provides national technical assistance and training on migrating children and child welfare, including a Web site and clearinghouse at www.brycs.org with over 2,000 resources on this topic. Since 2003, BRYCS has held five national roundtables and workshops on migration and child welfare, convening key public and private refugee/immigrant and child welfare organizations and publishing reports on those meetings.
- The Annie E. Casey Foundation, which is dedicated to improving the well-being of all children, has taken a special interest in improving child welfare services for migrating children. The Foundation convened a meeting of experts in 2005 that resulted in the comprehensive report, *Undercounted. Underserved. Immigrant and Refugee Families in the Child Welfare System*.
- The Immigrants and Child Welfare Project, developed by Ilze Earner, PhD, of the Hunter College School of Social Work. This project has provided a center for ongoing research and advocacy to improve child welfare services to immigrant and refugee children, particularly in New York City. Dr. Earner is co-editor of the recent seminal issue of the Child Welfare League of America's journal, *Child Welfare*, that focused on immigrants and child welfare.
- The Coalition for Asian American Children and Families (CACF), which published *Crossing the Divide: Asian American Families and The Child Welfare System*, and the Committee for Hispanic Children and Families, Inc. (CHCF), which produced

Creating a Latino Child Welfare Agenda: A Strategic Framework For Change. Both organizations are based in New York City.

- The Immigrant Legal Resource Center (ILRC) and the Family Violence Prevention Fund (FVPF), both of which are national groups that have contributed groundbreaking work on immigrant families and domestic violence.

The roundtable created a transnational opportunity to discuss the emerging impact of migration on child welfare services in the United States. It also formed the basis of a multi-disciplinary collaboration designed to inform and impact policy at the local, state, and national levels.

This report presents the results of the roundtable discussion and summarizes the emerging issues that participants identified as requiring attention by child welfare systems in order to facilitate positive child welfare outcomes of child safety, permanency of placements and relationships, and child and family well-being. Suggestions for further research and implications for policy and practice are also presented.

Roundtable Participants and Process

Roundtable Participants

A key objective of the roundtable was to bring together practitioners, academics, and advocates from immigration and child welfare fields in the United States and Mexico to engage in a dialogue that crossed professional fields and national borders. This initiative was intended to stimulate new research and program innovation; inform and shape policy development; and focus greater attention on improving child welfare systems, practice, and professional training. Convening such a diverse group of professionals promised an unusual opportunity to gather insight from the various vantage points offered by the participants. The breadth of perspectives, expertise, and experience of such a group of key informants could provide the knowledge needed to forge a program of response



to address the unique challenges immigrant families present to the child welfare system.

A series of conference calls established the focus of the information gathering, the composition of the group of key informants who would be invited, and the process for framing the discussions and data gathering. The conference calls were held with key professionals specializing in the fields of child welfare and immigration, who provided guidance in articulating conference objectives and assisted in identifying possible participants from the various sectors that comprised the target group. These calls helped to refine the focus of the conference panels that would provide a context for the discussions, identify potential panelists, and contribute to the list of individuals and organizations that would be extended an invitation to participate.

Invitations were sent to the individuals and organizations identified through the conference calls and planning committee discussions. This yielded a group of about 70 roundtable participants, which included:

- Researchers and academics from the fields of social work, anthropology, sociology, religious studies, and demography;
- Legal practitioners from immigration, child welfare, and policy advocacy fields;
- Practitioners and administrators from public, private, local, and state child welfare agencies;
- Representatives and officers from the U.S. and Mexico federal child welfare agencies;
- Consular staff;
- Individuals with firsthand experience within child welfare systems and immigration detention centers;
- Public and private immigrant service agency staff;
- Child protection, immigration, and domestic violence organization staff performing advocacy, evaluation, training, and technical assistance work at national and local levels; and
- Philanthropic foundation staff.

Roundtable Process

Framing

The roundtable forum provided a slate of expert panelists who addressed various aspects of the intersection of migration and child welfare. These sessions offered about 30 presentations and supporting data with the following foci:

- Child Welfare Training Initiative: Film and Discussion
- Serving Immigrant Children: Embracing Culture & Overcoming Challenges
- The Power of Love: Immigration Detention and Family Disruption
- Migratory Flows, Patterns, Demographics, & Trends
- Migration and the Family
- In the Best Interest of the Unaccompanied Immigrant Child
- Child Welfare Law, Immigration Policy, and Their Intersection

Following the panel sessions, conference participants convened in small work groups. The four work group sessions were focused on: research, workforce/training, cross-systems collaboration/field integration, and policy/advocacy. Participants received copies of the *Protecting Children* journal produced by American Humane and Loyola University Chicago, entitled *Migration: A Critical Issue for Child Welfare*, as well as summaries of relevant findings from a pioneering Annie E. Casey Foundation report, *Undercounted. Underserved. Immigrant and Refugee Families in the Child Welfare System*. A number of publications authored by roundtable participants



and other organizations were also made available as resources for the discussion sessions (refer to Appendix G, Bibliography). Together, the panel presentations and the available reports were offered to help focus roundtable participants for the response-framing task of the small work groups.

Information Gathering and Recording

Each work group was co-chaired by preidentified content experts who facilitated the discussions, guiding the participants in identifying concrete steps and strategies to advance a program of action to address the critical intersection of immigration and child welfare practice, policy, research, and advocacy. The facilitators moved the small-group participants from issue identification to “response formulation” and worked with the participants to intertwine some of the findings from the Casey report with the reflections offered by the speakers. The facilitators were encouraged to participate in the discussions, since they were selected on the basis of their expertise on the topics being discussed.

Students from the Loyola University Chicago Schools of Social Work and Law and roundtable staff served as group discussion timekeepers and recorders. Each group had two assigned student recorders.

Participants were asked to reflect on the designated focus of the discussion (i.e., research, workforce/training, cross-systems collaboration/field integration, or policy/advocacy) with regard to the following aspects:

- Issue definition
- Corresponding response/action recommendation
- Identification of resources and opportunities
- Identification of barriers and limitations
- Delineation of strategic steps towards implementation

In order to standardize information collection and facilitate synthesis of information garnered across groups, recorders were instructed to

take notes on the groups’ discussions along the five aforementioned categories. The goal of the facilitator and note takers was to work together to complete issue-mapping charts with the recorded responses of the participants.

Information Synthesis and Summary

Following the small group sessions, recorders and staff entered the handwritten information collected on the recording charts into electronic word processing files. The roundtable staff and graduate student recorders then worked together with the electronic files to synthesize the information gathered across small groups, by focus area. Within each focus area, they examined the recorded observations made by the participants to uncover themes, as well as unrepeatable ideas. This initial analysis began identifying emerging themes in the data. A combined summary of the emerging themes was distributed to all conference participants on the third day of the roundtable session.

On the third and final day of the roundtable, staff presented the summary for consideration by the audience through plenary responses and discussions during the morning session. This was used as an opportunity for clarification and further comment.

Subsequently, faculty and staff from American Humane, Loyola University Chicago, and the University of Illinois at Chicago’s Jane Addams College of Social Work formed a team to continue the analysis with the categories created by the initial review of the data at the conference. The second phase of analysis consisted of an independent review of the data by the report-writing team. Each of the team members arrived at similar results in their thematic analysis of the data and worked together to create a unified set of issues and implications. The results of this process are summarized in the following section.



Emerging Issues and Implications

I. Research

1. Data are not available on the number of immigrant children and families involved in the child welfare system.

Little information exists on the number of immigrant children and families involved in the child welfare system. Information on immigration status is not uniformly collected at the local, state, or national level, which often results in immigrant children and families being underreported or misclassified. Several factors contribute to this lack of reliable data, including fear of reporting immigration status, mixed immigration statuses within families, and inadequate reporting systems that are not designed to capture this information.

As a result of this lack of data, it is difficult to demonstrate the need for additional research, policy development, and practice guidelines concerning immigrant children and families. While it is believed that the number of immigrant children and families in the child welfare system is relatively small, the complexity of these cases combined with the growth of the immigrant population in the United States demonstrates the need for child welfare agencies to examine and address the needs of this population. However, the lack of reliable data prevents all other areas affecting policy and practice improvements from moving forward.

2. There is a lack of research that provides information on the unique needs of immigrant children and families in the child welfare system.

As a result of their experiences with migration and acculturation immigrant children and families have unique needs and face a multitude of challenges upon entering the United States. Changing cultural contexts combined with the loss of their community and other social supports make them vulnerable to stress, depression, and a host of other complications while attempting to establish safe and permanent homes for their children. These experiences affect the physical and mental health needs of immigrant children and families who become involved with the

child welfare system. Immigrant children also have unique educational needs that must be addressed. While a small body of research has been developed in recent years on the needs of immigrant children and families, additional research is needed to further identify these needs in order to provide services that facilitate positive outcomes of safety, permanency, and well-being.

3. There is a lack of research that provides information on effective, empirically based practices with immigrant children and families in the child welfare system.

As a result of the unique needs of this population, research is needed that provides information on interventions that improve outcomes of safety, permanency, and well-being. Culture and cultural experiences affect the ways in which families view their problems and respond to interventions. As a result, interventions that are used with non-immigrant populations may not be effective with immigrant children and families due to their cultural differences. In order for effective change to result, interventions must consider the cultural influences and experiences inherent in each family and how these influences affect service delivery.

Implications for Safety, Permanency, and Well-Being

Due to the lack of data on the number of immigrant children and families involved in the child welfare system, it is difficult to demonstrate the need for additional research, policy development, and practice guidelines concerning this population. As a result, limited information is available on the physical health, mental health, and educational needs of immigrant children in the child welfare system. Additionally, limited empirically-based information is available on interventions that are effective in promoting safety, permanency, and well-being with immigrant children and families. In the absence of empirically-based information on the needs and effective practices with this population, barriers exist to achieving positive child welfare outcomes.



Additional information is needed on the practices that are most effective in preventing abuse and neglect with this population in order to safely maintain children in their homes. Service delivery that does not consider the unique experiences and culture of immigrant children and families may not effectively address the issues that led to their involvement with the child welfare system. This can result in the removal of children due to the provision of ineffective and inadequate interventions. Similarly, permanency and the continuity of family relationships cannot be achieved without further knowledge of effective interventions that address the presenting issues in immigrant family systems. Positive outcomes of well-being cannot be achieved without empirical knowledge of the physical health, mental health, and educational needs of immigrant children.

Implications for Policy, Practice, and Research

Policies are needed that address the collection and storage of data on immigration status in order to provide reliable data on the number of immigrant children and families involved in the child welfare system. These policies should address how information on immigration status is obtained, how it is documented in case narratives, and where and how it is stored in computerized data systems. All aspects of policy development must address and consider families' safety and confidentiality. This information is needed to demonstrate the need for further research addressing the physical health, mental health, and educational needs of immigrant children and families involved in the child welfare system. This research can also support collaborations between child welfare and physical and mental health service providers. Funding is needed to support this research to develop and test interventions that result in positive outcomes of safety, permanency, and well-being. Additionally, child welfare administrators must recognize the need for changes in service delivery to meet the unique needs of immigrant children and families.

II. Workforce and Training

1. There is a need for advanced training within child welfare agencies on the issues affecting immigrant children and families and effective practices with immigrant children and families involved in the child welfare system.

Advanced training is needed that provides information to child welfare practitioners on the unique experiences of immigrant children and families. Upon migration, immigrant children and families experience significant challenges, often resulting in fear, stress, and isolation. Children in immigrant families are often considered at increased risk of child maltreatment due to the stress associated with migration and acculturation. As a result, culturally competent practice requires that child welfare practitioners thoroughly understand the effects of migration and acculturation on immigrant families in order to conduct adequate assessments that address the underlying causes of maltreatment and develop interventions that result in positive outcomes of safety, permanency, and well-being.

2. There is a need for increased understanding within child welfare agencies and among child welfare practitioners of federal and state policies that affect immigrant children and families.

Child welfare practitioners must be familiar with all federal and state policies that affect immigrant children and families and they must understand how those policies affect service delivery. Child welfare practitioners must be familiar with resources and programs available for immigrant children and families, such as Special Immigrant Juvenile Status, in order to provide comprehensive services that meet the needs of immigrant families. Child welfare practitioners should be able to educate their clients and make appropriate referrals to assist families in addressing issues resulting from immigration and immigration status.

3. Child welfare cases that involve immigration issues present additional complexities that must be considered when studying caseworker and agency workloads.



Immigration issues, as well as other complexities present in cases involving immigrant families, impact workload demands. Often these additional complexities are not taken into consideration when weighing workloads, which can result in caseworkers' inability to address issues that are unique to immigrant children and families in the child welfare system. Child welfare practitioners are generally unfamiliar with due process, protocols, and constraints resulting from immigration laws and policies. Cultural considerations and culturally appropriate practices become even more critical for families who are new to the United States and unfamiliar with U.S. customs and practices, which further adds to workload demands.

4. There is a lack of bilingual and bicultural staff within child welfare agencies.

Culturally and linguistically competent practice requires that services be provided in the native language of immigrant children and families to facilitate positive outcomes of safety, permanency, and well-being. Language barriers can result in miscommunication and misunderstandings, which can significantly affect families' ability to respond to interventions. Although some families may be able to speak English, they may be more comfortable speaking in their native language, particularly when addressing issues concerning their children's well-being. As a result, there is a need for increased bilingual staff in child welfare agencies. It is also important to recruit staff who are bicultural in order to respond more appropriately to children and families from diverse cultures. An improved cultural understanding can lead to improved engagement, more thorough assessments, more effective service delivery, and ultimately improved outcomes of safety, permanency, and well-being.

Certification and further professionalization of bilingual staff is challenged, however, by the difficulty of non-native English speakers to obtain adequate ratings in standard written certification examinations. In spite of the apparent equality in skill and understanding of practices and policies between native and non-native English speakers, written tests have presented more difficulty for

bilingual and non-native English speaking staff than for their counterparts for whom English is their first and/or only language.

5. There is a lack of programs in higher education offering education and training on the intersection of child welfare and immigration.

There are few programs in higher education that address the unique needs of immigrant children and families, particularly as they relate to the child welfare system. Schools of social work and related fields have not consistently addressed the unique needs of this population and provided social work students with information necessary to practice in this arena. Additionally, few opportunities exist to practice with clients of diverse cultural backgrounds, which results in a professional workforce that has some knowledge of cultural competence, but limited skill and experience in applying that knowledge. This issue extends beyond the child welfare system, as many service providers are unequipped to address the needs of immigrant children and families and provide adequate resources and referrals. The lack of data on the number of children and families affected by this issue contributes to this lack of response.

Implications for Safety, Permanency, and Well-Being

Positive outcomes of safety, permanency, and well-being require a child welfare workforce that understands the needs and issues affecting immigrant children and families. In order to protect children from abuse and neglect and safely maintain them in their homes, services must be provided by a workforce that is trained and familiar with those needs and issues. Practitioners who are untrained and unfamiliar with the issues affecting immigrant children and families are likely to filter information and make decisions through their own cultural lens, resulting in misunderstandings and errors in judgment. Children may be removed from their homes due to cultural misunderstandings or the inability of practitioners to recognize the underlying causes of concern within the family system. When children enter out-of-home care, permanency may be affected due to the provision of interventions that do not respond to the cultural needs of the



family. Positive outcomes of well-being cannot be achieved if practitioners do not understand the unique physical health, mental health, and educational needs of immigrant children.

Implications for Policy, Practice, and Research

Policies are needed within child welfare agencies to ensure that practitioners receive adequate training on the issues and experiences affecting immigrant populations. To facilitate addressing this need, curricula must be developed by experts in the intersection of immigration and child welfare and delivered by experienced and knowledgeable trainers. Training should incorporate follow-up activities that provide workers the opportunity to practice and apply what they learned. Additionally, child welfare administrators should demonstrate support for advanced training on this issue. Training programs should incorporate a rigorous evaluation, by independent researchers to determine the effectiveness of the training. Within child welfare agencies, programs are needed that focus on the recruitment and retention of bilingual/bicultural practitioners. The use of differential compensation packages or other benefits should be explored by administrators as a means of recruiting and retaining bilingual/bicultural staff. Additionally, bilingual/bicultural staff who are employed by child welfare agencies should be protected from increased workloads and additional responsibilities that could interfere with their ability to provide quality services. Policies should be developed that protect the time and workload of bilingual/bicultural practitioners to ensure equity. Further research is needed to evaluate bilingual/bicultural practitioner recruitment and retention efforts.

III. Cross-Systems Collaboration/Field Integration

1. **There is a need for cross-systems collaboration between child welfare agencies and those working with and on behalf of immigrant populations (e.g., legal professionals, service providers, and advocacy organizations) in order to effectively meet the needs of immigrant children and families involved**

in the child welfare system.

Cross-systems collaboration is needed to effectively meet the complex needs of immigrant children and families involved in the child welfare system. Often, service delivery to immigrant families is complex and fragmented, resulting in families who do not receive needed services. Additionally, unfamiliarity with U.S. culture and distrust of government systems serve as barriers to obtaining needed services. When working with immigrant children and families in the child welfare system, it is important that immediate crises and concerns are addressed, so families can concentrate on the issues that led to their involvement with the child welfare system. For many families, these immediate concerns involve their immigration status and citizenship. Service delivery to immigrant children and families can be aided through collaborative relationships between child welfare agencies and immigrant service providers who work as a team to meet the complex needs of families. Ultimately, this level of service provision will facilitate positive outcomes of safety, permanency, and well-being as families' immediate concerns are addressed, thus allowing them to focus their attention and energy on the issues that led to their involvement with the child welfare system.

2. **There is a lack of bilingual and bicultural service providers that can effectively respond to the needs of immigrant children and families.**

In order to provide culturally and linguistically competent services, service providers are needed within the community that are familiar with the issues and experiences of immigrant children and families and can provide services in families' native language. The lack of culturally and linguistically competent service providers can significantly affect the safety, permanency, and well-being of immigrant children involved in the child welfare system, as service providers who are unfamiliar with the issues resulting from immigration and acculturation will be unequipped to appropriately respond to the needs of these children.

3. **There is a lack of engagement between child welfare agencies and immigrant communities.**

Child welfare agencies must increase their



involvement with immigrant communities to be seen as a resource by these communities. Many immigrant communities are distrustful of governmental agencies and resistant to receiving help. This situation can be improved if child welfare agencies make themselves visible and available within the community. To facilitate understanding, child welfare agencies should educate the community — *in the native language of the community* — on the role of the agencies and the services and resources they can provide. Additionally, child welfare agencies should involve immigrant community members in Citizen Review Teams or similar efforts to increase the involvement of immigrant communities.

4. There is a lack of collaboration between the United States, Mexico, and other Latin American countries regarding the intersection of immigration and child welfare.

Many child welfare cases involving immigrant families have transnational dimensions that require transnational collaboration between the child welfare and human service systems in both the sending and receiving countries. Collaboration and coordination between the respective agencies is needed to effectively carry out a number of transnational case transactions, such as obtaining documentation from the country of origin needed to complete Special Immigrant Juvenile Status applications, obtaining birth certificates from the country of origin for immigrant minors in custody, obtaining appropriate home studies by local child welfare authorities for possible transnational family placements, locating individuals who reside in other countries and who must appear in court regarding the case of a minor, as well as other actions related to immigrant cases. The complex transnational nature of some cases require considerable collaboration and coordination to effectively serve immigrant families, particularly mixed-status families, involved in the child welfare system. However, such inter-governmental/inter-agency service collaboration and coordination is lacking between most states and countries.

Implications for Safety, Permanency, and Well-Being

Barriers to service delivery resulting from fragmented service provision and the lack of bicultural and bilingual providers can have a significant effect on outcomes of safety, permanency, and well-being. If culturally relevant services intended to reduce the risk of abuse or neglect present in the home cannot be provided, children cannot be safely maintained in their homes. When children enter the child welfare system, permanency may be affected due to the lack of culturally relevant services available for families to address the issues resulting in child welfare involvement. In particular, the ability to achieve the goal of family reunification may be effectively impaired when linguistically and culturally competent services are not available to immigrant families. Similarly, the physical health, mental health, and educational needs of immigrant children in the child welfare system may be unmet if culturally responsive services and service providers are unavailable. Barriers resulting from the lack of transnational collaboration contribute to the fragmented nature of services, which results in further delays and complications that prevent effective service delivery.

Implications for Policy, Practice, and Research

Policies should be developed that promote and encourage interagency collaboration between child welfare agencies and those providing services in immigrant communities. Multidisciplinary teams should be developed that meet regularly to address the complex needs of immigrant children and families in the child welfare system to facilitate access to needed services. Community outreach positions should be used to develop connections with the immigrant community and other service providers. In order to facilitate these efforts, funds must be allocated to support community engagement and the establishment of collaborative relationships within the community. Similarly, child welfare administrators must recognize the value of these collaborative relationships and advocate for their development. Service providers



that are familiar with the needs and experiences of immigrant children and families should be sought out from within the community to provide culturally responsive services that facilitate outcomes of safety, permanency, and well-being. Within child welfare agencies, efforts should be made to promote transnational collaboration to effectively meet the complex needs of immigrant children and families.

IV. Policy/Advocacy/Barriers

1. There is a lack of consistent policies within child welfare agencies that address the service needs of immigrant children and families in the child welfare system.

To effectively respond to the complex needs of immigrant children and families, policies that address the service needs of immigrant children and families are needed within child welfare agencies. Positive outcomes of safety, permanency, and well-being can be obtained only through comprehensive service delivery that addresses families' immigration status as well as the issues that led to their involvement with the child welfare system. These policies should address the need for cross-systems collaboration with other immigrant service providers to furnish comprehensive culturally and linguistically responsive services. Policies are also needed to ensure that children and families receive equitable services regardless of their immigration status.

2. Existing state and federal policies create barriers for child welfare agencies to provide effective service delivery to immigrant children and families in the child welfare system.

In 1996, Congress enacted the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA), which had a significant impact on the eligibility of public benefits for immigrants. PRWORA denies Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits and food stamps to immigrants, including legal immigrants who have resided in the United States for years, unless they qualify for an exemption. It also contains a 5-year prospective ban on all federal benefits means-tested

federal benefit programs to qualified immigrants who entered the United States after August 26, 1996. Before its passage, qualified legal immigrants were eligible for welfare and other benefits immediately upon gaining legal status. PRWORA also gives states broader power to determine eligibility of "qualified" immigrants for state-funded programs. Previously, states could not discriminate against legal immigrants in the provision of benefits, but now states can choose to deny, limit, or extend access to locally funded aid such as general assistance. States also retain the option to deny non-emergency Medicaid, social services block grants, and the Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants & Children. This has created tremendous confusion and inconsistencies across states and has decreased the number of supportive programs available to vulnerable immigrant families.

3. State and federal policies, combined with the current anti-immigrant sentiment in the United States, has resulted in immigrant children and families who are fearful of accessing benefits.

Immigrant families, particularly those who are undocumented or are applying for legal permanent residency (LPR) or a visa, are often fearful of accessing public services and benefits. Those who are undocumented fear deportation, while those who are applying for LPR may be fearful of being deemed a "public charge" under immigration law, which indicates that they cannot support themselves and must depend on benefits that provide cash assistance (e.g., Temporary Assistance to Needy Families and SSI). This designation can jeopardize immigrants' ability to enter or reenter the United States or to become legal residents if they are considered unable to support themselves. Those fears, as well as the confusion regarding eligibility for benefits, leave many immigrants without access to needed resources and supports.

4. There is a need for policy development concerning child welfare systems' response to children and families with mixed immigration statuses.

Nearly 1 in 10 families living in the United States are of mixed immigration status, with at least one parent who is a non-citizen and one child who is a citizen.



As of 2002, 72% of all children living with non-citizen parents were themselves citizens. Although these children are legal citizens, state and federal policies have created barriers that may prevent them from accessing services. Many immigrant parents fear being deported or prohibited from becoming naturalized as a result of their undocumented status if they attempt to access resources for their children. This creates a barrier for child welfare agencies and practitioners to providing effective services to children in mixed-status families, as parents may be resistant to receiving services because of fear over their immigration status. Additionally, families may be ineligible for certain services due to the parent's undocumented status, even though their children are legal citizens. Policies that guide effective practice with mixed-status families need to be developed to ensure that children and families receive comprehensive services which facilitate positive outcomes of safety, permanency, and well-being.

5. There is a need for policy development regarding child welfare systems' response to separated and unaccompanied immigrant children.

Separated or unaccompanied immigrant children are immigrants under the age of 18 who enter the country without a parent or with a non-parental adult. While the majority of these children are returned to their country of origin within a short period of time, a small percentage of them are placed into the foster care system due to allegations of abuse, neglect, or abandonment. These children are likely to have many complex legal and social service needs, and they must receive services from child welfare practitioners who are familiar with those needs and the resources available to them. Unaccompanied minors in the foster care system may be eligible for Special Immigrant Juvenile Status or other forms of immigration relief.

Implications for Safety, Permanency, and Well-Being

Policy and advocacy needs have a significant effect on the outcomes of safety, permanency, and well-being, as needed services cannot be provided or are limited. Children in immigrant families are often considered at increased risk of abuse and neglect as a result of the stress present in the family system. Children cannot be protected from abuse and neglect and safely maintained in their homes if families are unable to address the issues that contribute to acculturative stress, including immigration status and fear of discovery. Permanency may be affected as families may be unable to address the issues leading to their involvement with the child welfare agency due to concern and fear regarding their immigration status. For immigrant children, specific needs related to physical health, mental health, and education may be neglected due to parental fear of accessing services.

Implications for Policy, Practice, and Research

Child welfare agencies and administrators must address these barriers and advocate for policy change within the child welfare agency as well as within larger systems. Service providers, legal professionals, and child welfare practitioners should work together to provide a coordinated system of service delivery to eliminate barriers to needed services. Funding and existing resources must be used to ensure that immigrant children and families receive all services necessary to promote positive outcomes of safety, permanency, and well-being.



Conclusion

With the dramatic growth in the number and complexity of immigrant communities over the past 20 years, the population landscape across the United States has noticeably changed. While this has not necessarily produced a marked increase in the number of new child welfare cases, it has undoubtably increased the complexity of cases and the challenges for agencies, professionals, and families in achieving safety, permanency and well-being for immigrant children and their families who are being reported to child welfare agencies.

Child welfare work with immigrant families is compounded by: (a) language and dialect issues and the difficulty in providing appropriate linguistic resources for working with individuals who have limited English proficiency; (b) undocumented or mixed immigration status of family members and the lack of familiarity with immigration laws among child welfare practitioners; and (c) cultural and religious differences and general difficulty in providing culturally responsive services. These challenges may hold particularly true in the areas of the country currently experiencing the fastest growth in immigrant populations. Currently, California, Florida, Illinois, New Jersey, New York, and Texas are considered “*destination states*” and Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Georgia, Kentucky, Nebraska, Nevada, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Utah are considered “*emerging states*.”

Following on the sustained work of the many professionals and organizations that answered American Humane and Loyola University Chicago’s call to participate in the roundtable, this report attempts to articulate the major challenges to achieving better outcomes of safety, permanency, and well-being for children from immigrant families. It also suggests practical strategies and actions for improvement.

The roundtable participants composed a statement (Appendix A) that reflects the group’s commitment to the best interests of the children whose lives are impacted by the intersection of migration and child welfare and by the way in which current court, immigration, and child protection practices and policies might not

support positive outcomes for these children.

Working in the best interests of these children will require coordinated efforts between child welfare practitioners and immigration advocates to bring about meaningful improvements in providing appropriate and responsive child welfare services to immigrant families. While, in some areas, this will require the development of new service resources, policies, and even consular agreements, in many instances significant progress may be made through improved communication and informal collaboration between child welfare and immigration professionals and academics.

The roundtable participants hope that this report, together with parallel recent work, such as the 2006 report of the Annie E. Casey Foundation, *Undercounted. Underserved. Immigrant and Refugee Families in the Child Welfare System*, and reports and articles by BRYCS, the Child Welfare League of America, and numerous others referenced in this report — in addition to the innovative practices from states and counties already in place — will be viewed as positive and practical first steps toward a more consistent and concise understanding of the challenges facing immigrant children and families. This report is intended to be a tool for agencies and professionals in child welfare, courts, and immigration services to promote effective collaboration between the two fields and to effectively address the issues addressed herein.

To continue the multidisciplinary and transnational dialogue started at the roundtable, the participants formed a steering committee to provide leadership for the actions that received consensus from the participants. Appendix C lists the members of the steering committee and the agreed-upon next steps for the group.

American Humane and Loyola University Chicago acknowledge the interest and investment of time and resources by each of the individuals and organizations that participated in the roundtable and give special recognition to the group that has agreed to steer the migration and child welfare initiative, which is now called the Migration and Child Welfare Network.



Appendices

- A – Statement from the Roundtable Group
- B – Next Steps Document
- C – Steering Committee
- D – Roundtable Program
- E – Biographical Information of Roundtable Presenters
- F – Forum Attendees
- G – Bibliography



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Humane
Association

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UIC JANE ADDAMS
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT CHICAGO COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORK

Appendix A

Statement from the Roundtable Group

1. The migration of children and families to the United States is a very important, but largely unaddressed issue affecting the child welfare system.
2. Immigrant children who are involved in the programs that provide child protection and child welfare services must be afforded services that will address their needs for safety, permanency, and well-being.
3. Child welfare services should be available to all children. Immigration status should not impede and is not expected to expand the delivery of child welfare services.
4. All child welfare agencies, courts, and the professionals who work within these settings must, individually and through their membership organizations, become better informed about immigration law and best practices affecting immigrant children and families they are serving.
5. Delivering services to migrating children and families should be a focus at major national child welfare conferences, in the work of the federal child welfare resource centers, and in new research and demonstration projects.

Created by the participants at the Migration:

A Critical Issue for Child Welfare roundtable convened by the American Humane Association and Loyola University Chicago, Chicago, Ill., July 26, 2006



Appendix B

Next Steps Document

July 31, 2006

Purpose of Follow-Up and Suggested Strategies

In order to promote strategic national, transnational and interdisciplinary policy, practice, and research that advance culturally appropriate and humane responses to the challenges posed to child well-being by increased migration, the following strategies were drawn from the July 24-26 roundtable discussions.

- To create shared national leadership
- To promote continued dialogue on the interconnection of child welfare and immigration
- To build understanding of complex issues impacting child welfare services to immigrant children and families
- To respond to the current climate with the best interests of children and families in mind
- To build knowledge across child welfare and immigration systems, and include representation from other domains such as schools, faith-based and community-based organizations, as well as other organizations typically serving immigrant groups
- To inform policy
- To build best practice guidelines
- To disseminate promising practices
- To support research and experimentation
- To enhance professional development and training
- To support grassroots advocacy to educate individuals about resources and rights
- To promote the existence of immigration and child welfare resources and clearinghouses

Suggested Vehicles to Build a National Network and Promote Continued Dialogue

1. A steering committee
2. A statement of group identity
3. A network and a listserv
4. Dissemination of copies of presentations given
5. Roundtable report with analysis of discussions and recommendations
6. One- or two-page document summarizing key issues on immigration and child welfare that can be distributed by network members in multiple venues and other networks
7. Conference calls with participation of roundtable presenters and others on specific issues, including confidentiality and data issues



8. Baseline data or inventory of critical issues and key indicators
9. Updated reference and bibliography list
10. Inventory of research initiatives and services, and existing efforts on policy, training, and advocacy
11. Continued and extended convening and dialogue by network members, and presentations at conferences and other forums
12. Targeted outreach to other affected systems such as Head Start and schools, and to organizations typically serving immigrant groups, such as faith-based and community-based organizations
13. Incorporation of immigration related information in existing cultural competence initiatives
14. Inter-organizational collaboration on research projects, and commitment to the incorporation of migration/child welfare component in other new or ongoing initiatives, as appropriate
15. Continued dissemination of practice, policy, research, training, and advocacy efforts through publications, journals, videos, and other media
16. Dialogue with foundations, briefing on roundtable to ACF, and collaboration to create interest by state administrations and nationally visible people

Action Steps

1. **Group Identity and Steering Committee:** Creation of a group identity and a concise group mission and vision by the steering committee.

Status: Steering committee discussion resulted in the creation of a National Child Welfare and Migration Network, as a product of the roundtable. The network will be guided by the steering committee started at the roundtable. Subsequently, other members have been added to the steering committee. Several activities, outlined below, are intended to strengthen the network. The steering committee will meet next at the CWLA conference in February 2007 to discuss network strengthening.

2. **Listserv:** Contribution to the Annie E. Casey existing listserv and creation of an interactive directory for action.

Two types of listservs were discussed: informational and legislative/advocacy.

Resources: Yali Lincroft,
Annie E. Casey Foundation

Status: An existing listserv kept by Yali Lincroft serves the current needs of the network. As the network expands its scope, creation of more specific listservs can be revisited.

3. **Collaboration among organizations for limited scope projects, as feasible**

Resources: University of Illinois at Chicago, Loyola University Chicago, American Humane, and others that can be recruited



Status: With leadership of Alan Dettlaff from the University of Illinois at Chicago, a research subgroup has been formed with inclusion of Ada Skyles from University of Chicago, Rowena Fong, Ed.D. from University of Texas, Maria Vidal de Haymes from Loyola University Chicago, and Sonia Velazquez and Myles Edwards from American Humane. The group is currently working on a baseline of existing resources.

4. ***Roundtable report with analysis of discussions and recommendations***

Resource: A subgroup including American Humane (Sonia Velazquez and Lara Bruce), Loyola University Chicago (Maria Vidal de Haymes and Robert Mindell), and University of Illinois at Chicago (Alan Dettlaff) have completed a first draft which has been circulated to the steering committee.

Timeframe: Disseminated in early January 2007

5. ***Presentation and networking at national conferences***

Resource: Abstracts submitted at the end of July for continued dialogues at the Child Welfare League of America's Conference in February 2007 and 16th National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect, combining Loyola University Chicago, American Humane, and Bridging Refugee Youth and Children's Services (U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops). Also, an abstract submitted by the American Bar Association for a workshop.

Status: The Migration and Child Welfare Network has been accepted to present a mini-plenary at the 16th National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect in spring 2007. A workshop proposal was accepted for the CWLA conference in February, which presents an opportunity for a steering committee meeting in Washington, D.C. Additionally, the Annie E. Casey Foundation will graciously sponsor a networking reception during this event, of about 100 people, which will help strengthen the network.

6. ***Publications:*** Continued dissemination of practice, policy, research, training, and advocacy efforts through publications, journals, videos, and other media

Status: The websites of Bridging Refugee Youth and Children's Services, American Humane, and Annie E. Casey Foundation California clearinghouse have disseminated information. American Humane constituency e-mails and regular publications, and inserts in conference program books have also been used as vehicles.

7. ***Creation of Website***

Two websites have been purchased for five years in order to continue the dialogue from the roundtable. They can be accessed at childwelfareandmigrationnetwork.org and immigrationandchildwelfarenetwork.org.

8. ***Targeting Technical Assistance Providers***

Resources: Bridging Refugee Youth and Children's Services, American Humane, Howard Davidson, Yali Lincroft, and Gail Pendleton.

Timeframe: Ongoing



Other Planned Steps

1. Inquiry of and contact with the Department of Homeland Security about their family policies, speaking from a child welfare perspective
2. Clear articulation as to how universities can be helpful to this initiative and suggestions on how they can support cultural competency that strengthens child welfare services to migrant families
3. Networking with grant makers and building dialogue toward shared priorities
4. Continued and extended convening and dialogue by network members, and presentations at conferences and other forums
5. Targeted outreach to other affected systems such as Head-start and schools, and to organizations typically serving immigrant groups, such as faith-based and community-based organizations
6. Incorporation of immigration related information in existing cultural competence initiatives
7. Dialogue with foundations, and collaboration to create interest by state administrations and nationally visible people



Appendix C

Steering Committee

At the conclusion of the roundtable discussions, a steering committee was created to directly address the immediate and long-term goals of the conference. Steering committee members' names and agency affiliations are listed below.

Howard Davidson
ABA Center on Children and the Law
Washington, D.C.

Lonna Davis
Family Violence Prevention Fund
Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts

Alan Dettlaff
University of Illinois at Chicago
Jane Addams School of Social Work
Chicago, Illinois

Julianne Duncan
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
Washington, D.C.

Ilze Earner
Hunter College School of Social Work
New York, New York

Roque Gerald
Child and Family Services Agency
Washington, D.C.

Sally Kinoshita
Staff Attorney
Immigrant Legal Resource Center
San Francisco, California

Yali Lincroft
Annie E. Casey Foundation and the
California Family to Family Initiative
Albany, California

Lois Ann Lorentzen
University of San Francisco
San Francisco, California

Robert Mindell
Loyola University Chicago
Chicago, Illinois

Amalia Guzman Molina
Families of the Incarcerated
Los Angeles, California

Lyn Morland
Bridging Refugee Youth and Children's Services
Washington, D.C.

Gail Pendleton
Family Violence Prevention Fund
Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts

Ada Skyles
Associate Director
Chapin Hall Center for Children
University of Chicago
Chicago, Illinois

Krista Thomas
Administration for Children and Families
Chicago, Illinois

Vladimiro Valdés
Servicio Jesuita a Migrantes, México
México, D.F., México

Sonia Velazquez
American Humane Association
Englewood, Colorado

Maria Vidal de Haymes
Loyola University Chicago
Chicago, Illinois

Alberto Xicotencatl
Servicio Jesuita a Migrantes, México
Veracruz, México

Cindy Ryman Yost
Child Welfare League of America
Lincoln, Nebraska



Appendix D

Roundtable Program

Monday, July 24, 2006

9:30 a.m.-11 a.m. Film and Discussion: Latino Child Welfare Training Initiative

Robert Mindell, project coordinator, Latino Child Welfare Training Initiative, Loyola University Chicago Graduate School of Social Work, Chicago, Ill.; and Megan Finno, graduate research fellow, Loyola University Chicago Graduate School of Social Work, Chicago, Ill.

The film presents the professional training aspects of the Latino Child Welfare Training Initiative of the Graduate School of Social Work, Loyola University Chicago.

12:30 p.m.-12:45 p.m. Introductions

Presiding Table: Lic. Mario Julio Córdova Motte, director general de rehabilitación y asistencia social, Sistema Nacional para el Desarrollo Integral de la Familia, México D.F.; Amalia Guzman Molina, Families of the Incarcerated, Office of Restorative Justice, Los Angeles, Calif.; Robert Mindell, project coordinator, Loyola University Chicago Graduate School of Social Work, Chicago, Ill.; Mariana Ramos Sanchez, directora de asuntos internacionales, Dirección General Jurídica y de Enlace Institucional, Sistema Nacional para el Desarrollo Integral de la Familia, México D.F.; Carlos Manuel Sada, cónsul, Mexican Consulate Chicago, Ill.; Bryan Samuels, director, Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, Chicago, Ill.; Sonia Velásquez, vice president, Children's Services, American Humane Association, Denver, Colo.; and Maria Vidal de Haymes, professor, Loyola University Chicago Graduate School of Social Work, Chicago, Ill.

12:45 p.m.-1:15 p.m. Welcome Address: Serving Our Immigrant Children: Embracing Culture and Overcoming Challenges

Bryan Samuels, director, Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, Chicago, Ill.

1:15 p.m.-2 p.m. Keynote Address: The Power of Love

Amalia Guzman Molina, Families of the Incarcerated, Office of Restorative Justice, Los Angeles, Calif. and author of "The Power of Love: My Experience in a U.S. Immigration Jail."

2 p.m.-3 p.m. Plenary Panel Session: Migratory Flows, Patterns, Demographics, and Trends

Moderator and panelist: Salvador Cicero-Dominguez, J.D., American Bar Association, Chicago, Ill.

Panelists: Alberto Xicotencatl, Servicio Jesuita a Migrantes Mexico, Villa Oluta, Veracruz, Mexico; Gail Pendleton, co-chair and co-founder, National Network to End Violence against Immigrant Women, and Family Violence Prevention Fund, Boston, Mass.; and Fred Tsao, policy director, Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights, Chicago, Ill.

3:15 p.m.-4:15 p.m. Plenary Panel Session: Migration and the Family

Moderator and panelist: Randolph Capps, M.P.Aff., Ph.D., senior research associate, Urban Institute, Washington, D.C.



Panelists: Alan Dettlaff, M.S.W., Ph.D., assistant professor, University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, Ill.; Lois Lorentzen, M.A., Ph.D., professor and director, Religion and Immigration Project, University of San Francisco, San Francisco, Calif.; and Heather Koball, Ph.D., senior research associate, National Center for Children and Poverty, Columbia University, New York, N.Y.

**4:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m. Plenary Panel Session:
In the Best Interest of the Unaccompanied
Immigrant Child**

Moderator and panelist: Maria Woltjen, J.D., Immigrant Children's Advocacy Project, Chicago, Ill.

Panelists: Mary Meg McCarthy, J.D., executive director, National Immigrant Justice Center, Chicago, Ill.; Stacey Platt, J.D., clinical professor and associate director, Loyola Child Law Clinic, Chicago, Ill.; and Jean Ortega-Piron, J.D., Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, Division of Guardian and Advocacy, Chicago, Ill.

Tuesday, July 25, 2006

8:30 a.m.-9:30 a.m. Plenary Session: Child Welfare Law, Immigration Policy, and Their Intersection

Howard Davidson, J.D., director, American Bar Association, Center on Children and the Law, Washington, D.C.; and Bernadine Karge, J.D., staff attorney, Chicago Legal Clinic, Chicago, Ill.

9:30 a.m.-10:15 a.m. Small Group Discussions

The group discussions focused on the identification of immigration and child welfare policy and advocacy responses that address the intersection of these two fields of practice at international, federal, state, and local levels. Special attention was given to international dimensions and implications of policies. The discussion was guided by the four migration and child welfare issues presented on Monday and Tuesday morning:

- Migratory flows, patterns, demographics, and trends
- Migration and the family
- In the best interest of the unaccompanied immigrant child
- Immigration and child welfare policy and advocacy

Co-chairs for group discussions: Jean Ortega-Piron, deputy director, Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, Division of Guardian and Advocacy, Chicago, Ill.; Yali Lincroft, Annie E. Casey Foundation, Albany, Calif.; Layla Suleiman Gonzalez, assistant professor, DePaul University, Chicago, Ill.; Ilze Earner, Ph.D., L.C.S.W., assistant professor, Hunter College School of Social Work, City University of New York, National Resource Center for Family-Centered Practice and Permanency Planning, New York, N.Y.; Roque Gerald, Psy. D., deputy director, Child and Family Services Agency, Office of Clinical Practice, Washington, D.C.; Justine van Straaten, M.S.W., J.D., director, Family Court Blueprint for Change, Center for Court Innovation, New York, N.Y.; Alan Dettlaff, M.S.W., Ph.D., assistant professor, University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, Ill.; and John Holton, Ph.D., director of research and evaluation, Prevent Child Abuse America, Chicago, Ill.

10:30 a.m.-11 a.m. Plenary Session: Group Reports

11 a.m.-noon Plenary Session: Emerging Issues on the Intersection of Migration and Child Welfare

Gretchen Test, senior research associate, Annie E. Casey Foundation, Baltimore, Md.; Yali Lincroft, Annie E. Casey Foundation, Albany, Calif.; and Ilze Earner, Ph.D., L.C.S.W., assistant professor, Hunter College School of Social Work, City University of New York National Resource Center for Family-Centered Practice and Permanency Planning, New York, N.Y.



1 p.m.-1:45 p.m. Small Group Discussions

The group discussions focused on the development of research and training programs to generate new knowledge that will help professionals better respond to the emerging challenges that immigrant families present to the child welfare system. The discussion crossed several fields of practice, academic disciplines, and national borders to develop a research agenda that will generate critical knowledge to inform and enhance practice with immigrant families, guide the professional training of immigration and child welfare professionals in both continuing and higher education formats, and aid the development of community education materials. The discussion also addressed system data needs that will aid administrative- and policy-focused research to aid in the refinement of organizational practices and policy reform. The group discussions were focused on emerging issues on the intersection of migration and child welfare.

Co-chairs for small group discussions: Kenneth Martin-Ocasio, director, Latino Family Services, Lifelink, and co-chair, Latino Consortium, Bensenville, Ill.; Rob Sawyer, M.S.W., LICSW, director, Olmsted County Child and Family Services, Rochester, Minn.; Anita Weinberg, J.D., director, Child Law Center, Loyola University School of Law, Chicago, Ill.; Lois Lorentzen, M.A., Ph.D., professor and director, Religion and Immigration Project, University of San Francisco, San Francisco, Calif.; Stacey Platt, clinical professor and associate director, Loyola Child Law Clinic, Chicago, Ill.; Gretchen Test, senior research associate, Annie E. Casey Foundation, Baltimore, Md.; Myles Edwards, Ph.D., director of research and evaluation, American Humane Association, Denver, Colo.; and Heather Koball, Ph.D., senior research associate, National Center for Children and Poverty, Columbia University, New York, N.Y.

1:45 p.m.-2:15 p.m. Plenary Session: Group Reports

2:15 p.m.-3:15 p.m. Plenary Session: Service Challenges and Innovative Responses

Julianne Duncan, Ph.D., executive director, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, Bridging Refugee Youth and Children's Services, Office of Refugee Services, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; Washington, D.C.; Edurne Pineda, cónsul, Division of the Mexican Consulate of Chicago, Chicago, Ill.; and Justine van Straaten, director, Family Court Blueprint for Change, Center for Court Innovation, New York, N.Y.

3:30 p.m.-4:15 p.m. Small Group Discussions

The group discussions focused on the development of institutional and programmatic responses that enhance system coordination and field integration across fields of practice and service systems, at national and international levels, to support appropriate services and interventions with immigrant families. The small groups were aided in their deliberations by the program examples discussed during the Tuesday afternoon plenary session.

Co-chairs: Howard Davidson, J.D., director, American Bar Association Center on Children and the Law, Washington, D.C.; Julianne Duncan, Ph.D., executive director, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, Bridging Refugee Youth and Children's Services, Office of Refugee Services, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; Washington, D.C.; Patricia Schene, Ph.D., child welfare consultant and author, Denver, Colo.; Krista Thomas, M.S.W., children and families program specialist, Administration for Children and Families, Region V, Chicago, Ill.; Carol Hafford, Ph.D., senior research associate, James Bell Associates, Arlington, Va.; Gail Pendleton, co-chair and co-founder, National Network against Violence against Immigrant Women, and Family Violence Prevention Fund, Boston, Mass.; Lawrence Benito, associate director, Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights, Chicago, Ill.; and Edurne Pineda, cónsul, Division of the Mexican Consulate of Chicago, Chicago, Ill.



4:15 p.m.-4:45 p.m. Plenary Session: Group Reports

4:45 p.m.-5:15 p.m. Plenary Session: Open Discussion - Roundtable Draft Report

Wednesday, July 26, 2006

8:45 a.m.-9:15 a.m. Review Draft Document

9:15 a.m.-10:15 a.m. A Response Forum – Session A: Table Discussions

Participants chose one of 11 immigration and child welfare policy and practice principles to discuss. Each table examined the collective work from a distinct principle, with a designated spokesperson.

Principles stated in federal child welfare policy:

- Best interest of the child
- Safety
- Permanency
- Child well-being
- Least restrictive placement
- Family reunification

Principles stated in federal immigration policy:

- Border safety and protection
- Protection of refugees
- Reunification of families
- Diversity of admissions by country of origin
- Admission of immigrants to support labor needs

10:30 a.m.-11:45 a.m. A Consensus Forum – Session B: Toward a New Interdisciplinary, Transnational Response Platform

11:45 a.m.-noon Closing Remarks

Jack Wall, dean, Graduate School of Social Work, Loyola University Chicago, Chicago, Ill.



Appendix E

Biographical Information of Roundtable Presenters

(listed in alphabetical order)

Randolph Capps, M.PAff., Ph.D.

Randy Capps, a demographer with substantial expertise in immigrant populations, is a senior research associate at the Urban Institute. Dr. Capps has analyzed data on immigrants from a wide variety of sources, including the 2000 Census, the Current Population Survey, the Urban Institute's National Survey of America's Families (NSAF) and Los Angeles New York City Immigrant Survey (LANYCIS). He has published a report on the dispersal of immigrants across the United States, and a guidebook to analyzing immigrant populations at the state and local level, using data from the Census and other sources. His recent work also includes a report on immigrants in the U.S. low-wage labor force.

Dr. Capps has also analyzed and published national data -- and data for eight major immigrant receiving states -- on poverty, food insecurity and health insurance among immigrant families, drawing from the 1999 and 2002 NSAF. He published a study of the health and well-being of young children in immigrant families using the NSAF and the 2000 Census, funded by the Foundation for Child Development (FCD). He also recently completed a report on the demography of immigrants' children in U.S. public schools, also funded by FCD.

His recent work at the state and local level includes a study of tax payments by immigrants in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area; an assessment of immigrants' health care access in Connecticut; a study of immigrant integration in Louisville; and a forthcoming study of immigrants' labor market and economic impact in Arkansas.

Salvador Cicero-Dominguez, J.D.

Salvador Cicero-Dominguez holds a juris doctor and a certificate in international transactions and development from The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law (1998). He received a bachelor's degree in Latin American studies at the University of New Mexico (1994) and is also a graduate of the Matías Romero Institute for Diplomatic Studies in Mexico City (2000).

He currently serves as research fellow of the American Bar Foundation and director of the American Bar Association's Project to Combat Trafficking in Persons in Ecuador. A career member of the Foreign Service of Mexico, he has served as consul for Legal Affairs in Chicago, director of political and community affairs of the Institute for Mexicans Abroad, and advisor to the undersecretary for human rights at the Foreign Ministry in Mexico. He received the William Oxley Thompson Award for early career achievement by The Ohio State University Alumni Association (2004) and the American Bar Association's Silver Key (1998).

Howard Davidson, J.D.

Howard Davidson has been actively involved with the legal aspects of child protection for over 30 years. He has directed the ABA Center on Children and the Law since its establishment in 1978. The Center makes available extensive training, technical assistance, consulting, and publications for lawyers, child welfare agencies, juvenile (dependency) courts, and programs that provide legal representation in those cases. Mr. Davidson has served as chairman of the U.S. Advisory Board on Child Abuse and Neglect and is a founding board member of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. He is the author of many legal articles on child maltreatment. In the 1970s, he spent five years as a legal services attorney, exclusively representing children in juvenile court. At that time, he created the Children's Law Project of Greater Boston Legal Services, one of the country's first children's law centers.



Alan J. Dettlaff, M.S.W., Ph.D.

Alan J. Dettlaff is assistant professor of social work at the University of Illinois at Chicago, Jane Addams College of Social Work. His experience includes six years as a practitioner and administrator in public child welfare, where he specialized in investigations and sexual abuse. Dr. Dettlaff is currently the principal investigator in a federal grant from the Administration of Children, Youth, and Families that is providing training to child welfare administrators and staff on effective practice with Latino children and families. The goal of this project is to improve outcomes of safety, permanence, and well-being through the use of the system of care model with Latino families involved with the child welfare system. Dr. Dettlaff's research interests focus on effective practice with Latino children and families, as well as strategies to address racial disproportionality in the child welfare system. He also provides training and consultation to several state child welfare agencies on the development of new staff and program evaluation.

Julianne Duncan, Ph.D.

Julianne Duncan is currently responsible for children's programs for Migration and Refugee Services at the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) in Washington, D.C. Her responsibilities have included oversight of field coordination services which assist undocumented children. In 2002-2003, she assisted in designing and implementing the Office of Refugee Resettlement program.

In 2000, she worked in Kakuma Refugee Camp in Kenya assisting with resettlement preparation for Sudanese children and young adults who have been resettled in the United States. She has worked in refugee child welfare and mental health programs in Washington State for Lutheran Social Services, Catholic Community Services, and the State of Washington. Her earlier work involved assistance to Southeast Asian refugees in Thailand and in the United States. She has developed curricula for parenting classes for Cambodian and other refugee ethnic groups and taught parenting classes for refugees for many years. Dr. Duncan's degree is in anthropology with a specialization in the mental health needs of refugees. She is a licensed mental health counselor with certification in child and minority mental health.

Ilze Earner, Ph.D., L.C.S.W.

Ilze Earner is an assistant professor at the Hunter College School of Social Work and specializes in the field of family and children's services. She is the founder and director of the Immigrants and Child Welfare Project, which provides consulting, technical assistance and training on issues related to foreign-born populations and child welfare. For over 10 years, Dr. Earner has been instrumental in raising awareness about the special needs of immigrant families, children, and youth involved in public child welfare systems. She and Dr. Hilda Rivera co-edited a special edition of the *Journal of Child Welfare*, "Immigrant and Refugee Families and Public Child Welfare," published by the Child Welfare League of America in September 2005. She has published numerous articles on child welfare with immigrant and refugee families, children, and youth.

Dr. Earner is a member of the National Child Welfare Advisory Board in Washington, D.C., and sits on the New York City Administration for Children's Services Sub-Committee on Immigrant Issues. Her current research interests include refugee children and youth, trafficking, and training social work students on immigrant issues. Dr. Earner received her Ph.D. from Columbia University and a master's in social work from the California State University in Fresno. Dr. Earner is herself an immigrant; she was born in a refugee camp in France.

Myles T. Edwards, Ph.D.

Myles Edwards joined the staff at American Humane in 1993. His current position is director of research for children and animals. His areas of study at American Humane have included risk assessment, reporting systems, workload analysis, child protection/child welfare outcomes, multi-state data sets, and community response to child and animal protection issues. He is the project director for the Washington, D.C. family



team meeting external evaluation. He has worked extensively in health services research and in mental health research and evaluation. Following his completion of a doctorate in social psychology, for over a decade he was the director of research at Aurora (Colo.) Community Mental Health Center and was the chairman of the research division of the National Association of Community Mental Health Centers. Prior to joining American Humane, he was an analyst and grant writer for the Colorado Foundation for Medical Care.

Megan Finno

Megan Finno is currently an M.S.W. candidate at Loyola University Chicago and a graduate research fellow with the Latino Child Welfare Training Initiative, a project funded by the HHS Children's Bureau. Ms. Finno began her career in human services with an undergraduate degree in psychology and Spanish from the University of Illinois-Urbana/Champaign in 2002. Her practice experience includes child and family therapy with Spanish-speaking families and professional child welfare workforce development in Illinois. She has also practiced abroad in drug rehabilitation services in Spain and most recently in the Diplomado en Migracion program of Jesuit Migrant Services of Mexico in the state of Veracruz.

Roque Gerald, Psy.D.

Roque Gerald designed, established, and developed the Office of Clinical Practice, a CFSA function that provides internal expertise in child and family health and mental health. His staff includes a board certified pediatrician, a clinical psychologist, registered nurses, certified substance abuse counselors, and domestic violence counselors, among other multi-disciplinary professionals. He has been instrumental in establishing child- and family-centered approaches to child welfare at CFSA. Dr. Gerald has a doctorate in clinical psychology from The Virginia Consortium for Professional Psychology and has over 30 years of experience in the private and public sectors as a clinician and consultant in child and family mental health. Dr. Gerald has provided technical assistance to child welfare systems across the United States in implementing child- and family-centered approaches. He is recognized nationally and internationally for his work with family group decision making. He currently serves on the advisory committee of the American Humane Association's National Center on Family Group Decision Making.

Carol Hafford, Ph.D.

Carol Hafford is a senior research associate with James Bell Associates in Arlington, Va., and has a degree in applied anthropology from Columbia University. While at James Bell, she has worked on several child welfare evaluations pertaining to neglect prevention, child protection, court improvement, tribal family preservation, foster care, adoption, and independent living, as well as the federal Child and Family Services Reviews. She has conducted anthropological fieldwork on the children of immigrants from the Dominican Republic, focusing on family chain migration, parental employment and economic hardship, mixed status families, social support networks, and the role of adolescents in providing care for younger children. Previously, she conducted ethnographic research on runaway and homeless youth and transitional living services, and community-based arts programs. In addition, she has also served as a federal project officer for evaluations on service learning, national and community service, and nonprofit capacity building. Her research interests include the reproduction of social support in transnational families, and cultural competency and community engagement in human service delivery.

Bernadine Karge, J.D.

Bernadine Karge is currently a staff attorney with the Chicago Legal Clinic, Inc. in Chicago, Ill. For more than 20 years, Ms. Karge has worked in the field of immigration law with various nonprofit agencies, specializing in family-based visas, deportation/removal defense, special immigrant petitions for juveniles and battered spouses, employment authorization, and naturalization. In addition to practice, Bernadine has been involved in trainings



on immigration issues over the years. She recently participated in a program with Loyola University School of Social Work in the state of Veracruz, Mexico, in June, 2006. As a member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA), she has been serving on the advocacy committee for comprehensive immigration reform. In 2002-2003, Ms. Karge worked with the Dominican Leadership Conference, a non-governmental organization (NGO) at the United Nations in New York City. Educational institutions attended include Howard University Law School, Washington, D.C., (J.D. 1979); Edgewood College, Madison, Wis. (B.A.); and The International Institute of Human Rights, Strasbourg, France (1979). Bernadine is a Dominican Sister of Sinsinawa, Wis.

Heather Koball, Ph.D.

Heather Koball is a senior research associate at the National Center for Children in Poverty of the Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University. She conducts demographic research on poverty trends and studies the impact of social policies on family structure. She earned her Ph.D. in sociology from Brown University and a master's in statistics from Virginia Tech University. She also received post-doctoral training at the University of North Carolina.

Yali Lincroft, M.B.A.

Yali Lincroft is currently a consultant to the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Family to Family Initiative. For the past 15 years, she has been a child and family program and policy planner. She was the editor of two handbooks on becoming a family childcare provider and has written numerous resources for parents and childcare providers on quality childcare. Ms. Lincroft was a city planner for the San Francisco Department of Children, Youth, and Family. For the past 10 years, she has been a private consultant and has worked on a public-private childcare initiative, a citywide family preservation and support plan, a children's mental health initiative, and a national foster care improvement initiative. Most recently, Ms. Lincroft has co-authored a report on immigrants in the child welfare system for the Annie E. Casey Foundation. Ms. Lincroft was the founding board member of the Infant/Toddler Consortium, past president of Neighborhood Parents Network, and appointed member of the Alameda Local Child Care Planning Council. She is a first generation immigrant and is an active parent volunteer for the Albany Unified School District.

Lois Ann Lorentzen, M.A., Ph.D.

Lois Ann Lorentzen is professor of social ethics in the Theology and Religious Studies Department at the University of San Francisco (USF), associate director of the Center for Latino Studies in the Americas (CELASA), and principal investigator for The Religion and Immigration Project. Professor Lorentzen received her Ph.D. in social ethics at the University of Southern California.

Professor Lorentzen is the author of "Etica Ambiental" (Environmental Ethics) and "Raising the Bar" and co-editor of the forthcoming "On the Corner of Bliss and Nirvana: the Intersection of Religion, Politics, and Identity in New Migrant Communities," as well as "Ecofeminism and Globalization: Exploring Culture, Context, and Religion"; "Religions/Globalizations: Theories and Cases"; "The Women and War Reader"; "Liberation Theologies, Postmodernity and the Americas"; and "The Gendered New World Order." She is associate editor for the Encyclopedia of Religion and Nature and the Encyclopedia of Violence, Peace, and Conflict and has written numerous articles in the fields of women and war, religion and violence, religion and immigration, and gender and the environment.



Mary Meg McCarthy, J.D.

Mary Meg McCarthy has served as the director of National Immigrant Justice Center (NIJC) since 1998 and oversees all aspects of NIJC's legal services and advocacy on behalf of immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers as well as programmatic and operational functions of NIJC. Under Ms. McCarthy's direction, NIJC has built a pro bono network of more than 700 attorneys in Chicago alone and has become the leading immigrant and human rights program in the Midwest. Prior to joining NIJC in 1998, Ms. McCarthy practiced civil litigation at the law firm of Horvath & Lieber and served as a pro bono attorney for NIJC's asylum project. Ms. McCarthy is a 1989 graduate of Loyola University School of Law and is licensed by the State of Illinois to practice law.

Robert Mindell

Robert Mindell has been a human service professional since 1967 and has worked exclusively in the field of child welfare since 1980. During this time, he has worked at all levels of the system, serving as a caseworker, investigator, follow-up worker, and supervisor. From 1994 until 1996, Mr. Mindell served as executive assistant for child welfare services in the office of the governor of Illinois. He has also served as a special assistant to several directors of the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (IDCFS), retiring as a senior administrator in the Department in December 2002. While Mr. Mindell has spent most of his child welfare practice in the public sector, he also served as director of planning for Jane Addams Hull House Association. Mr. Mindell was responsible for overseeing the initial development of the Latino Consortium of Chicago and has been actively involved in Latino child welfare services for a number of years.

In addition to his administrative and earlier direct service practice in child welfare, Mr. Mindell has also been very engaged in child welfare-related scholarship in recent years. Some of his work has been published in *Child Welfare*, featured in the *Children's Bureau Express*, and reviewed in *Children's Rights*. Mr. Mindell is currently a consultant for several human service organizations and has served on a number of agency boards and advisory committees, including the Catholic Charities of Chicago Human Rights Review Committee.

D. Jean Ortega-Piron, J.D.

D. Jean Ortega-Piron was appointed Guardian of the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) on Sept. 3, 1996. Prior to her appointment, Ms. Ortega-Piron served as executive assistant to Governor Edgar's Special Counsel for Child Welfare Services, where she was responsible for coordinating and overseeing implementation of policy, plans, and initiatives relating to juvenile court reform. Ms. Ortega-Piron began her career in human services in 1980 as a law clerk for the Illinois Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities. In 1987, she left that position to serve as the DCFS chief administrative law judge and administrator of the Administrative Hearings Unit, which she created. In 1994, she joined Governor Edgar's staff.

Ms. Ortega-Piron returned to DCFS in 1996, and is currently the legal guardian of more than 17,000 children in Illinois, but she also serves as a policy formulating executive manager, directing the development and implementation of departmental policy related to guardianship services, and is the deputy director for the DCFS Division of Guardian and Advocacy. Ms. Ortega-Piron holds a bachelor's degree from Rosary College and a juris doctorate degree from IIT Chicago Kent College of Law. In 2005, she received the Chicago Bar Foundation Richard J. Phelan Award for Outstanding Public Service and an honorable mention for the 2005 Jefferson Awards.



Gail Pendleton

Gail Pendleton is co-founder and co-chair of the National Network to End Violence Against Immigrant Women and co-director of ASISTA, a national immigration law technical assistance project funded by the federal Office on Violence Against Women. Formerly associate director of the National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild, where she worked for 20 years, she is now an independent consultant, providing innovative multi-disciplinary trainings on immigration options for immigrant survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and trafficking. She received the American Immigration Lawyers Association's Human Rights Award in 2001, and received her J.D. in 1985 from NYU School of Law and her A.B. from Harvard/Radcliffe College in 1981.

Stacey E. Platt, J.D.

Stacey Platt received her undergraduate degree in psychology and history. She graduated from law school with honors, and received the Myron J. Greene Memorial Award for excellence in clinical training. After graduating, she worked as a staff attorney with the Legal Assistance Foundation of Chicago, where her areas of focus were domestic violence and children's issues. She has extensive experience representing parents, caretakers, and children in abuse and neglect proceedings in the juvenile court and in custody and visitation proceedings in the domestic relations court, including work on significant appeals. She has also worked on several class action lawsuits pursuing reform of Illinois child welfare and education systems. Educational achievement includes a B.A., Wisconsin, 1984, and J.D., cum laude, New York University, 1991.

Rob Sawyer, M.S.W., LICSW

Rob Sawyer is the director of child welfare services for Olmsted County Child and Family Services in southeast Minnesota. Olmsted has implemented a number of child welfare and child mental health reforms, including alternative response to an expanding child protection population, family group decision making, concurrent permanency planning, and risk/needs classification. A public-private partnership with community agencies has generated a collaborative approach to the overlap in child maltreatment and domestic violence. Mr. Sawyer has over thirty years' experience in child welfare and has presented at state, national, and international conferences. Mr. Sawyer received a 2001 USDHHS Commissioner's Award for leadership and services in the prevention of child abuse and neglect.

Layla P. Suleiman Gonzalez, Ph.D.

Layla P. Suleiman Gonzalez is an assistant professor in human development in the School of Education at DePaul University in Chicago. Her research focuses on Latino child welfare and youth development. For over 20 years, Dr. Suleiman Gonzalez has provided training, policy, research, and evaluation consultation on topics ranging from Latino family and child development, cultural democratic practice, policy analysis, and organizational development to numerous nonprofit and public entities at the local, state, and national level. She was appointed federal court monitor for the Burgos Consent Decree in 1995 and for five years, monitored Illinois Department of Children and Family Services compliance. She has also served as an evaluator in several community initiatives and is active on national task forces advancing cultural responsiveness in social service delivery. Dr. Suleiman Gonzalez has served as associate director of a national organization dedicated to family support and a lecturer in the School of Education at Loyola University Chicago. Dr. Suleiman Gonzalez received her degree in applied developmental psychology at Loyola University of Chicago and is currently pursuing her J.D. at DePaul University.



Gretchen Test

Gretchen Test is the program associate for child welfare system reform at The Annie E. Casey Foundation, in Baltimore, Md., where she promotes the Foundation's Family to Family (Reconstructing Foster Care) Initiative and coordinates technical assistance to 60 implementation sites nationwide. She also manages child welfare grants, assists Foundation staff with related child welfare system reform efforts, and tracks child welfare policy issues. She represents the Foundation on the Steering Committee for the Casey Alliance for Racial Equity in Child Welfare, the Policy Subcommittee of the Joint Casey Workgroup on Youth Transition, and the National Resource Center for Community Based Child Abuse Prevention. Prior to coming to the Casey Foundation in early 2003, she served for 5½ years as director of the National Association of Public Child Welfare Administrators, housed in the American Public Human Services Association, in Washington, D.C. She also brings a variety of experiences developing and administering grassroots community-based human service programs in both public and nonprofit settings. She spent 15 years working on refugee/immigrant issues and developed programs and curricula for immigrant and refugee women's programs in Seattle, Wash. She has a master's degree in social work from the University of Washington (UW) with a concentration in community organizing and planning, as well as a graduate certificate from UW in human services management.

Krista Thomas, M.S.W.

Krista Thomas is currently a children and families program specialist with the Region V Office of the Administration for Children and Families, Department of Health and Human Services, joining federal service just over two years ago as a Presidential Management Fellow. She is the federal child welfare specialist for the State of Wisconsin and the American Indian tribes in the region, as well as the child welfare lead for the ACF Region V Hispanic/Latino Workgroup. She has a master's degree in social work from the George Warren Brown School of Social Work at Washington University in St. Louis, specializing in social and economic development. In conjunction with her graduate work, Ms. Thomas worked with the community agency Acción Social Comunitaria, developing an education-oriented mentor program for immigrant youth. She also worked with Catholic Family Services, International – The Hispanic Center primarily doing legislative advocacy for education issues impacting immigrant youth. Krista holds a dual Bachelor of Arts degree in Spanish and integrated international studies from Knox College in Galesburg, Ill., and spent her junior year studying at the University of Palermo in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and the University of Barcelona in Barcelona, Spain. Upon graduating from Knox College, Ms. Thomas spent a year as a volunteer in Nicaragua at the children's home Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos serving orphaned and abandoned children as a primary school English teacher, housemother, and athletic director.

Fred Tsao

Fred Tsao is the policy director at the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (ICIRR). In this position, he provides technical support, trainings, and presentations on immigration-related topics to service providers, immigrant community organizations, and others who work with immigrants. He also provides updates and analysis of changes in immigration policies and procedures to ICIRR members and allies, and assists with the coalition's legislative advocacy efforts. A self-described "recovering attorney," Mr. Tsao practiced law at the Rockford office of Prairie State Legal Services, where he worked after receiving his law degree from the University of Michigan. He has also worked with the American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois, the Chicago Anti-Hunger Federation, and the Missouri Public Interest Research Group. A native of Chicago, Mr. Tsao is the son of immigrants from China, and has had a lifelong concern with immigration issues.



Justine van Straaten, M.S.W., J.D.

Justine van Straaten is the director of the Family Court Blueprint for Change initiative at the Center for Court Innovation in New York. The Blueprint for Change, in collaboration with the New York City Family Court, represents a coordinated vision for improving the processing of abuse and neglect matters in the family court by building upon reforms that are already underway. Prior to joining the Center, Ms. van Straaten was a policy analyst at the New York City Administration for Children's Services in the Division of Child Protection. Her published articles include "Serving Immigrant Families and Children in New York City's Child Welfare System" (2005), and "The Policy Behind the Indian Child Welfare Act" (2001). Ms. van Straaten received a Bachelor of Arts from Johns Hopkins University and received both a law degree and a master's in social work from Loyola University Chicago, where she was a CIVITAS ChildLaw fellow.

Sonia C. Velazquez, B.A., C.S.S.

Sonia C. Velazquez is vice president of the Children's Services Division at American Humane, where she provides program leadership and oversees professionals working in research and evaluation, systems improvement and practice advancement, child welfare training, policy and communications, and child abuse prevention and community support programs. Her 26 years of experience include working throughout the United States and internationally with some of the largest child-focused development organizations serving millions of families and children. A native of Colombia, Ms. Velazquez worked for impoverished communities in Latin America before assuming leadership positions in the headquarters of international child-focused organizations in the United States and England. She has worked for many of the world's most respected child welfare organizations, including the National Resource Center for Community Based Child Abuse Prevention, Family Support America, PLAN International, Christian Children's Fund, and Save the Children.

Maria Vidal de Haymes, Ph.D.

Maria Vidal de Haymes received her master's degree from the University of Chicago in 1987 and her Ph.D. from Ohio State University in 1991. Dr. Vidal de Haymes joined the faculty of Loyola University-Chicago in 1992, where she is currently a professor in the School of Social Work. In 2002, Dr. Vidal de Haymes received the distinction of Loyola Faculty Scholar and in 2003, she received the Peña Community Service Award from the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services for her work in child welfare. Dr. Vidal de Haymes teaches courses in areas of social welfare policy, community organizing, and race and ethnicity. She has published research concerning child welfare, social work education, and the economic and political incorporation of Latino immigrants in the United States, and she has been the primary investigator on a number of national and state grants focused on child welfare practice with children and families of color. Dr. Vidal de Haymes serves as a consultant to numerous local and state agencies and serves on the board of several Latino community-based organizations and the editorial board of the Journal of Poverty.

Anita Weinberg, J.D.

Anita Weinberg has worked on behalf of children and families for over 25 years as an attorney and social worker. Prior to teaching at Loyola, she served as director of policy and planning for the Department of Children and Family Services Office of Inspector General. Previously, she was an assistant Cook County public guardian representing abused and neglected children and supervising staff attorneys. She also was a staff attorney with the Legal Assistance Foundation of Chicago where she represented parents and children in the juvenile court, in class action litigation, and in legislative advocacy. Professor Weinberg was adjunct faculty at the University of Chicago School of Social Services Administration for nine years, where she created and taught a class on social work and the law. As a social worker, she directed the Resources for Permanence Project at the Child Welfare League of America in New York City. Professor Weinberg involves students in interdisciplinary projects in the areas of child welfare and health. Most recently, she



and students have been intensively involved in efforts to eliminate childhood lead poisoning in Chicago, an issue that has been linked to special education needs and other medical and behavioral problems that have the potential for limiting children's opportunities and learning capability. She is the recipient of grants from the Chicago Community Trust and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for work on lead poisoning prevention. She serves on numerous committees and councils devoted to children's rights. She has testified before congressional and state legislative committees on child welfare and health related issues. Educational achievement includes: B.A., Michigan, 1974, M.S.S.W., Columbia, 1977, and J.D., Loyola Chicago, 1986.

Maria Woltjen, J.D.

In 2004, Maria Woltjen launched the Immigrant Children's Advocacy Project, a national initiative that provides guardians ad litem (child protection advocates) for unaccompanied immigrant children in federal custody. She began her legal career in 1987 as a litigator at Coffield, Ungaretti, Harris & Slavin, where she devoted substantial time to pro bono cases, and since then her career has centered on children's rights. She directed the Children's Advocacy Project of the Chicago Lawyer's Committee for Civil Rights, focusing on delinquency, health and disabilities. Additionally, she worked for several years as adjunct faculty at Loyola University of Chicago School of Law. Ms. Woltjen also serves on numerous boards and committees in the immigration field including the Washington, D.C.-based Working Group on Unaccompanied Children, the Leadership Council of the National Immigrant Justice Center and the Illinois Task Force on Unaccompanied Immigrant Children. She earned a bachelor's from the University of Illinois at Chicago and a J.D. from the Loyola University of Chicago School of Law, where she was executive editor, lead articles, for the Loyola University of Chicago Law Journal.



Appendix F

Forum Attendees

Carlos Argueta
Arden Shore Child and Family Services
Vernon Hills, Illinois

Lawrence Benito
Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights
Chicago, Illinois

Margaret Berglind
Child Care Association of Illinois
Chicago, Illinois

Jenessa Bryan
Kentucky Youth Advocates
Louisville, Kentucky

Randolph Capps
Urban Institute
Washington, D.C.

Mary Pat Clemmons
Loyola University Chicago
Chicago, Illinois

Jesse Cortina
Los Angeles, California

Howard Davidson
ABA Center on Children and the Law
Washington, D.C.

Alan Dettlaff
University of Illinois at Chicago
Jane Addams School of Social Work
Chicago, Illinois

Pat Devin
Board of Directors
American Humane Association
Englewood, Colorado

Salvador Cicero-Dominguez
American Bar Association
Chicago, Illinois

Julianne Duncan
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
Washington, D.C.

Ilze Earner
Hunter College School of Social Work
New York, New York

Myles Edwards
American Humane Association
Englewood, Colorado

Israel Espinosa
Arden Shore Child and Family Services
Vernon Hills, Illinois

Enid Fefer
Youth Service Project, Inc.
Chicago, Illinois

Megan Finno
Loyola University Chicago
Chicago, Illinois

Katy Fulk
Loyola University Chicago
Chicago, Illinois

Roque Gerald
Child and Family Services Agency
Washington, D.C.

Layla Suleiman Gonzalez
DePaul University
Chicago, Illinois

Alexandra Groff
Loyola University Chicago
Chicago, Illinois

Carol Hafford
James Bell Associates
Arlington, Virginia

John Holton
Prevent Child Abuse America
Chicago, Illinois



Candice Hughes
Bridging Cultures, Inc.
Winnetka, Illinois

Bernadine Karge
Chicago Legal Clinic, Inc.
Chicago, Illinois

Heather Koball
National Center for Children in Poverty
New York, New York

Lea Koveos
Loyola University Chicago
Chicago, Illinois

Candace Larue
American Humane Association
Englewood, Colorado

Mark Lewis
New York City Administration for Children's Services
New York, New York

Yali Lincroft
Annie E. Casey Foundation
Albany, California

Lois Ann Lorentzen
University of San Francisco
San Francisco, California

Allison Lowe
Loyola University Chicago
Chicago, Illinois

Annabelle Marquez
International Catholic Migration Commission
Chicago, Illinois

Kenneth Martin-Ocasio
Lifelink
Chicago, Illinois

Mary Meg McCarthy
National Immigrant Justice Center
Chicago, Illinois

Lisa Merkel-Holguin
American Humane Association
Englewood, Colorado

Constance Miller
Administration for Children and Families
Chicago, Illinois

Tara Miller
Loyola University Chicago
Chicago, Illinois

Robert Mindell
Loyola University Chicago
Chicago, Illinois

Amalia Guzman Molina
Families of the Incarcerated
Los Angeles, California

Cynthia Moreno
Illinois Department of Children and Family Services
Chicago, Illinois

Mario Julio Cordova Motte
Sistema Nacional para el Desarrollo Integral de la
Familia
Rehabilitación y Asistencia Social
México D.F., Mexico

Kathy O'Grady
Loyola University Chicago
Chicago, Illinois

Jean Ortega-Piron
Illinois Department of Children and Family Services
Chicago, Illinois

Gail Pendleton
Family Violence Prevention Fund
Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts

Eduardo Pineda
Consulado de Mexico en Chicago
Chicago, Illinois

Stacey Platt
Loyola University Chicago
Chicago, Illinois



Jesse Rainey
American Humane Association
Englewood, Colorado

Heidi Ramirez
Mujeres Latinas En Accion
Chicago, Illinois

Mariana Ramos Sanchez
Sistema Nacional para el Desarrollo Integral de la
Familia
México D.F., Mexico

Katie Rohrer
Loyola University Chicago
Chicago, Illinois

Carlos Manuel Sada
Consulado de Mexico en Chicago
Chicago, Illinois

Bryan Samuels
Illinois Department of Children and Family Services
Chicago, Illinois

Rob Sawyer
Olmsted County Child and Family Services
Rochester, Minnesota

Patricia Schene
Patricia Schene and Associates, LLC
Littleton, Colorado

Michael Shaver

Alexandra Sleeper
Caliber Associates
Fairfax, Virginia

Gretchen Test
Annie E. Casey Foundation
Baltimore, Maryland

Krista Thomas
Administration for Children and Families
Chicago, Illinois

Fred Tsao
Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights
Chicago, Illinois

Marian Urquilla
Columbia Heights Shaw Family Support
Washington, D.C.

Justine van Straaten
Center for Court Innovation
New York, New York

Sonia Velazquez
American Humane Association
Englewood, Colorado

Maria Vidal de Haymes
Loyola University Chicago
Chicago, Illinois

Thu Vo
Illinois State Government
Chicago, Illinois

Aimee Volanski
Loyola University Chicago
Chicago, Illinois

Jack Wall
Loyola University Chicago
Chicago, Illinois

Anita Weinberg
Loyola University Chicago
Chicago, Illinois

Maria Woltjen
Immigrant Children's Advocacy Project
Chicago, Illinois

Alberto Xicotencatl
Servicio Jesuita a Migrantes Mexico
Veracruz, Mexico



Appendix G

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